

BENCH-BAR-MEDIA CONFERENCE

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 1997 MEETING

The Bench-Bar-Media Conference convened on October 16, 1997 in all three counties simultaneously at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was open to the public. Present were:

Members from the Bench

Justice Randy Holland
Judge Roderick R. McKelvie
Judge Jay Paul James
Judge John Welch
Judge Henry duPont Ridgely (in Kent County)

Members from the Bar

Richard Kirk, Vice Chair
Howard Handelman
Eugene Bayard (in Sussex County)

Members from the Print Media

Rita Farrell
James Flood (in Kent County)

Members from the Electronic Media

Michael Sigman, Chair
Todd Halliday
Allen Loudell
Marilyn Buerkle (in Sussex County)

The meeting followed the attached agenda (distributed and posted beforehand).

I. Chairman's Priorities for 1997-1998

The Chairman identified four priorities for the coming year:

○ He plans to publicize the activities of the conference, both before and after the fact, through better notices, agendas and minutes. In particular, information will be disseminated to all members of the bar through the Bar Association's communications office, web page, and newsletter. All members of the Conference were invited to submit items for any agenda and to circulate minutes to our constituent organizations.

○ He would like to continue the conference's regular in-house educational sessions. That is to say, at each meeting, we will try to have invited guests to discuss a topic of mutual interest, typically for only thirty minutes or so.

On behalf of Rita Farrell, Judge McKelvie circulated the attached article from The Boston Globe. In addition, Dick Kirk circulated the attached column from The News Journal.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be January 15, 1998, at the Kent County Judges' Chambers, with all members invited to attend there in person. In addition, video conferencing capability will be in use so that other members can attend simultaneously in the other two counties.

Roderick R. McKelvie

November 25, 1997

The meeting followed the attached agenda:

1. Membership

Chairman Sigman welcomed Jane Amari, the Executive Editor at the News Journal. He reported that he had written a letter to John Sweeney thanking him for his participation. He also reported he would check with Judge James and Chief Justice Veasey on Judge James' continuing role in the Conference and whether or not there will be a new member or a representative from the Family Court.

2. The Jacket

Sharon Agnew then made a presentation on how the Prothonotary handles paperwork in criminal files. Attached are copies of papers that Sharon Agnew distributed during her presentation.

3. Internet Seminar

Richard Kirk provided an update with plans on the April 24, 1998, internet seminar. He suggested and the Conference agreed that we should plan our seminar jointly with two Bar Association Committees, the Committee on Intellectual Property and the Committee on Computer Law. He reported that the Committee is preparing a four-part program that will include (1) a demonstration on the internet, (2) a presentation on legal regulation of the internet, (3) a presentation on privacy and security on the internet, and (4) a presentation on intellectual property on the internet. He said the Committee was shooting towards presenting the program at the Hotel DuPont, although there was some discussion among the Conference that he should consider planning the program for Clayton Hall.

4. New Business

Chairman Sigman reviewed conversations he had with Thomas Ralston on establishing a room or space for media access in the Herrmann Building that would allow witness interviews and press conferences with more dignity. The Conference discussed the proposal. President Judge Ridgely suggested that the representatives of the media consider having input for a media access area at the new Courthouse. Chairman Sigman will write to Mr. Ralston with suggestions on space in the current building.